Mr. Les Payne
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Long Island, N.Y. 11747

10/30/89

Dear Les,

When I phoned and asked that you return the call it was in response to an interest you onme expressed and in the hope that would save time and make it possible for me to answer any questions you might have. I go to The Johns Hopkins Hospital in a week to have it determined whether or not I need additional arterial surgery and if so, whether or not it is safe. Much has happened to me wince we last were together. Ahd I'm 76 now.

You were interested in getting copies of King assassination records for as I now recall a black college or one with a large black student body.

Among the records I got from the FBI are its HQ and Memphis records on the sanitation-workers strike and on the Invaders. Jerry McKnight, Hood professor and in more or less (with the librarian) in charge of my archive that will be there, did several understated, scholarly articles for The South Atlantic Quarterly (Duke) on them and a bright undergraduate did an honors paper on them, too. If you are interested, he will provide copies, I'm sure. Duplicates of those records are already at Hood, along with some other, but most are still here. (Domestic intelligence against blacks by FBI.)

Dr. Gerald Ginocchio, Sociology, Wofford College, Spartanburg, is trying to indroduce some form of black studies there and is going to have copies of these two files made when he is here next, probably not until January. Hodd is not in a position to undertake about 4,000 pages of copying for him and I've arranged for it to be done locally, commercially. He'll take my file drawers to this company that I've used in the past and they'll make the copies from my originals. The cost per page will be 5¢, which is half of what I told you it would cost then. There are, of course, either 60,000 or 40,000 additional pages, depending on which FBI figure one accepts. But I think that these two files plus perhaps some outside reading could be valuable for such honors studies as that young woman did at Hood. And, of course, for the understanding of young minds in bodies that perhaps had no such experiences.

My immediate purpose is to let you know and to give you time to consult, if still interested, with your associates in the organization on behalf of which you spoke to me.

I'm going to suggest to Gerry that he also copy what it took quite a fight to get, the FBI's field offices' inevntories of their holdings on Dr. King, his family and associates, about 400 pages. And that doesn't include the electronic surveillances!

My arrangements with Hood are that there will be full public access. They are building a new library building and have special accomodations for this archive in the plans. You were not aware of most of my work. Aside from books and such it takes up about 60 file cabinets and countless boxes. I've already given them about 10 feet of the CIA's disclosed records on mindbending and that has been used in a paper.(Sam Adams worked there when he was doing his Wetsmoreland thing for CBS.)

After you and I last saw each other I had an artifical arterial implanted in my left thigh, with immediate and subsequent complications. I had still other venous thromboses after negligent prostate surgery. More recently a local cardiologist wanted to send me to Washington for catheterization to determine whether I have arterial obstructions in the chest but I insist on Hopkins and my family doctor wonders whether I can risk any additional surgery, even catheterization. Hopkins was great when my better eye was operated on without complications and their expert in the area involved is to make the evaluation. I now also have angina and I'm not very able physically.

Hope you are all well and happy,

Harold